THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) The guidelines on the subject does not emphasise the fact that whoever has completed more than 30 years of service would automatically get 60 months of VR compensation. 60 months salary is only an upper ceiling which will act as a check for not allowing undue advantages to any VR optees. Hence, the computation of the VSS payment is required to be done @45 days of salary per completed year of service and is subject to the condition that will not exceed the salary/ wage for the balance period of service left at the rate of monthly salary/ wage at the time of voluntary retirement. This matter is *sub judice* before various High Courts.

Revival of public sector fertilizer units

516. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have contemplated to revive the closed public sector fertilizer units in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) to (c) In the light of the Government's Common Minimum Programme (CMP), the issue regarding the revival of the closed Fertilizer Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) is being re-examined based on market demand and their techno-economic viability.

Supply of fertilizers to States

517. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fertilizer units in the country;

(b) the number of fertilizer units which have either closed down or have become sick within the period from 1999-2000 to 2003-2004;

(c) whether Government are aware that the supply of fertilizers is not made to the State of Tripura in time; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to increase the production of fertilizers and regularize the system of delivery to the States on demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) At present, there are 57 large size fertilizer units in the country manufacturing a wide range of nitrogenous, phosphatic and complex fertilizers. Besides, there are about 64 small and medium scale units in operation producing single super phosphate (SSP).

(b) The following units have either closed down or become inoperative during the period from 1999-2000 to 2003-2004:—

1. Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd., Gorakhpur
2. Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd., Ramagundam
3. Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd., Talcher
4. Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd., Sindri
5. Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd., Namrup-II (under revamp)
6. Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd., Durgapur
7. Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd., Barauni
8. Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd., Trombay (urea plant)
9. Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd., Amjhore
10. Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd., Saladipura
11. Hindustan Copper Ltd., Khetri
12. Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd., Cochin-I
13. Duncan Industries Ltd., Kanpur

(c) No, Sir, supply of fertilizers is being made as per the assessed demand of State Government. In case of decontrolled fertilizers, the availability depends on the requirement/demand in the State. The

assessed requirement of urea for Kharif 2004, availability and sales upto 30.6.2004 in Tripura is as under.

	('000 MTs)
Assessed Demand for Kharif 2004 (entire season)	13.00
Availability upto 30.6.2004	9.20
Sales upto 30.6.2004	5.33
Closing stock as on 30.6.2004	3.87

No reports of shortage of fertilizers have been received from the State Government.

(d) Question does not arise.

Setting up of IFFCO phosphoric plant

†518. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to set up IFFCO phosphoric plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) to (c) Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) is conducting initial feasibility studies for exploring the possibilities of setting up a phosphoric acid plant.

Subsidy to fertilizer sector

†519. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount of subsidy being given by Government to the fertilizer sector has continuously increased in the past years;

(b) if so, the amount of subsidy given to the fertilizer sector in 1998-99 togetherwith the estimated amount of subsidy to be given in 2004-05;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.